

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

MID-PACIFIC REGION

SOUTH-CENTRAL CALIFORNIA AREA OFFICE
FRESNO, CALIFORNIA

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

ACQUISITION OF LAND FROM JOHN HUBBELL, ET AL. (HUBBELL
PROPERTY)
SAN JUSTO RESERVOIR, SAN FELIPE DIVISION, CENTRAL VALLEY PROJECT,
CA

FONSI-06-141

Recommended by:


Laura Myers.

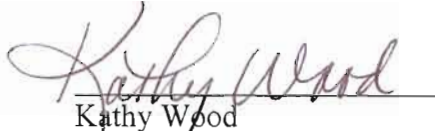
Natural Resource Specialist

South Central California Area Office

Date:



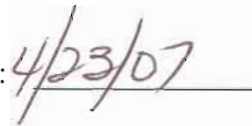
Concurred by:


Kathy Wood

Resource Management Division Chief

South Central California Area Office

Date:



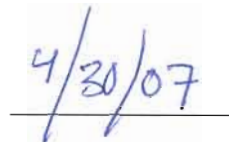
Approved by:


William Shipp

Deputy Area Manager

South Central California Area Office

Date:



FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
Acquisition of Land from John Hubbell, et al. (Hubbell Property)
San Justo Reservoir, San Felipe Division, Central Valley Project, CA

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended, the Deputy Area Manager, South-Central California Area Office of the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation), has determined that the purchase a 41.56-acre parcel of land from an adjacent land owner will not result in significant impacts to the human environment and an environmental impact statement is not required. The purpose of the land purchase is to compensate the landowner for the loss of the land use. This kind of action will not result in significant impacts to the human environment and an environmental impact statement is not required.

This determination is based on the findings below and the Environmental Assessment for the *Acquisition of Land from John Hubbell, et al. (Hubbell Property), San Justo Reservoir, San Felipe Division, Central Valley Project, CA*. Reclamation will approve the purchase of the parcel of land that is susceptible to landslides due to seepage from the San Justo Reservoir.

Background

Reclamation proposes to purchase a 41.56-acre parcel of land from an adjacent land owner. This parcel of land is susceptible to landslides due to seepage from the San Justo Reservoir. The property proposed for purchase is located near San Justo Reservoir in San Benito County, California.

Findings

Water Resources

Under the proposed action, Reclamation will purchase in fee title at fair market value a 41.56-acre parcel of land from an adjacent land owner. The Proposed Action will not alter any CVP or San Benito County Water District (SBCWD) entitlement or impede any obligations to deliver water to SBCWD, fish, or wildlife purposes. The proposed action is strictly administrative in nature. Therefore, the land acquisition will not result in substantial effects to surface water resources.

Land Use

Under the proposed action, Reclamation will own title to 41.56 acres adjacent to San Justo Dam. The land will continue to be unmanaged and will not be included in the San Justo Reservoir park boundary. No new facilities will be constructed; existing facilities will not be modified. The proposed action will not result in increased or decreased water supplies to SBCWD that would induce growth or land use changes. The landslides on the

property will continue to make land unavailable for grazing and homesites. No changes to land use will occur. The proposed action will be strictly administrative in nature. Therefore, the land acquisition will not result in substantial effects to land resources or use in the SBCWD.

Landslides in the area will continue. There may be seepage remediation in the future; however, details of such remediation are not known at this time. Any future remediation will require additional environmental review.

Biological Resources

Purchase of the property by Reclamation is an administrative action and management of the property will not change following acquisition. The land currently is unmanaged. Because no change will occur to management of the property following acquisition, the action will not affect biological resources including listed species or critical habitat. However, if management of the parcel is to be changed, further environmental review for potential effects under the Endangered Species Act will be required.

Recreation

The proposed alternative will be an administrative action only and, as such, there will be no changes to current operations of the reservoir or lands. The purchase of the land will not result in major impacts to recreation or recreational resources. It will not interfere with recreational opportunities at San Justo Reservoir.

Aesthetics

The proposed alternative will be an administrative action only and, as such, there will be no changes or impacts to aesthetics resulting from the purchase. The proposed project does not involve the construction of new facilities or modification of existing infrastructure. All operations and maintenance activities will continue under existing conditions. As in the no action alternative, landslides will continue to occur. Future land use and actions on this parcel are not known at this time. Any future changes will require additional environmental review.

Soils and Geology

Under the proposed action, Reclamation will own title adjacent to San Justo Dam. There will not be new facilities constructed; existing facilities will not be modified. The proposed action will be strictly administrative in nature. Therefore, the change in ownership will not result in adverse impacts on soils and geology. In addition, because no new facilities will be constructed with this project, no discussion of seismic hazards or Alquist-Priolo Act compliance is warranted. There may be some seepage remediation in the future; however, it is not known at this time what remedies would occur. Seepage remediation will be a separate action and would undergo separate environmental review and analysis prior to approval.

Cultural Resources

The purchasing of land from private to Federal ownership is an administrative action and is not the type of action that has the potential to affect historic properties or cultural resources. No impacts to cultural resources will occur with this alternative.

Indian Trust Assets

There are no ITAs affected by this proposed project. The nearest ITA is approximately 8.9 miles south/southeast of the proposed action and it is a Public Domain Allotment. It will not affect ITAs.

Socioeconomic Resources

Under the proposed action, Reclamation will own title to 41.56 acres adjacent to San Justo Dam. No new facilities will be constructed, nor will existing facilities be modified. The proposed action will be strictly administrative in nature. The Proposed Action will provide a slight benefit by avoiding a costly lawsuit compared to the No Action alternative. Therefore, the Title Transfer will not result in adverse impacts on socioeconomic resources with this alternative. San Benito County will no longer receive revenue from property taxes on this land since the Federal Government cannot be taxed by states or counties. The lack of property tax on this small parcel of land that is zoned for *agriculture* will not result in major losses of revenue for the County.

Environmental Justice

The proposed project does not involve the construction of new facilities or modification of existing infrastructure; no adverse impacts to minority or disadvantaged populations will occur.

Cumulative Effects

Landslides will continue on the property. The proposed action is strictly administrative in nature. Since no changes will occur to existing conditions, the change in ownership will not contribute to cumulative impacts. Future land use and actions on this parcel are not known at this time. Any future changes will require additional environmental review.

Environmental Commitments

Reclamation will post “No Trespassing” signs along the boundary of the property to restrict public access.